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**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 13, 15, and 17-19 have been amended, claims 5-7, 12, and 20 have been canceled, and claims 26-30 added. Claims 1-4, 8-11, 13-19, and 21-30 are pending in the application for consideration on the merits. Favorable consideration of this application as amended is requested.

**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b):**

Claims 1-3, and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chapman et al. (5,186,388). Claim 1, as amended, is essentially claim 7 rewritten in independent form, which, as discussed below, the examiner indicated is allowable subject matter. Claims 2, 3, 10, and 11 each ultimately depend from claim 1, and so are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claim 12 has been canceled.

Consequently, applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hollstein et al. (4,248,379). Claim 13, as amended, is essentially claim 20 rewritten in independent form, which, as discussed below, the examiner indicated is allowable subject matter. Claims 14 and 15 each ultimately depend from claim 13, and so are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 13.

New claim 30 is essentially the original dependent claim 14 rewritten in independent form, and clarifying that the collar member is not only mounted around but rotatable relative to the valve body and that the fitting rotates with the collar. With regard to new claim 30, applicants respectfully traverse the examiner's rejection. In order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), each and every element of the claim must be disclosed in the prior art reference.

Hollstein teaches a color change system having a manifold block (15) with five pinch valves (61a-d, 63) mounted within this integral block. The pinch valves (61a-d, 63) each include a metal sleeve (64) mounted within an enlarged section (62) of each inlet port, and a resilient flexible sleeve 65 mounted within each metal sleeve (64). Each metal

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sleeve (64) is ported and has at least one of its ports aligned with a corresponding pinch valve control port (67a-d), which is formed directly in the manifold block.

New claim 30, on the other hand, recites "wherein each said pinch valve has a generally tubular valve body with a collar member mounted therearound and rotatable relative thereto, and each said collar member includes a fitting mounted thereon and rotatable therewith." Hollstein teaches a metal sleeve mounted within, not around, a pinch valve body, and moreover, does not teach the metal sleeve is rotatable relative to the body. And further, Hollstein does not teach anything about a fitting mounting on the metal sleeve, let alone being rotatable with it.

With at least these limitations of claim 30 clearly missing from Hollstein, there cannot be anticipation of claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Consequently, applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by D'Acierno et al. (5,891,401). Claim 1, as amended, is essentially claim 7 rewritten in independent form, which, as discussed below, the examiner indicated is allowable subject matter. Claims 10 and 11 each ultimately depend from claim 1, and so are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claim 5 and 6 have been canceled.

New claim 26 is essentially the original dependent claim 8 rewritten in independent form. With regard to new claim 26, applicants respectfully traverse the examiner's rejection. In order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), each and every element of the claim must be disclosed in the prior art reference.

D'Acierno teaches a single distribution plate (13) between a gas chamber (12) and a reaction chamber (15), where the single distribution plate (13) may take the form of the embodiment shown in Figs. 2 and 4 of D'Acierno. The single distribution plate (13) of the embodiment of Figs. 2 and 4 includes elements 31, 34, 35, and 37—they are all part of the same distribution plate (13). The porous members (31) and perforated plates (37) are used in pairs to prevent solids from falling through the openings and to even flow of the air within each hole in the plate (13), not to redistribute air as it approaches the underside of the plate (13), which would redistribute air between the holes in the plate.

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New claim 26, on the other hand, recites, "means for mixing the powder paint material in the plenum including a fluidizing plate disposed in said canister body and dividing said canister body plenum into an upper powder paint storage portion and a lower fluidization air plenum; a fluidizing distribution plate disposed in said canister body intermediate said fluidizing plate and a bottom of said canister body plenum, said fluidizing distribution plate having a plurality of holes formed therethrough for distributing fluidizing air received from a fluidizing air inlet in said bottom of said canister body plenum to a facing surface of said fluidizing plate." Thus, claim 26 recites both a fluidizing plate, and a fluidizing distribution plate that distributes fluidizing air to a facing surface of the fluidizing plate.

With at least these limitations of claim 26 missing from D'Acierno, there cannot be anticipation of claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Consequently, applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):**

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapman ('388). Claim 4 ultimately depends from amended claim 1, which as discussed below, the examiner indicated was allowable subject matter. Consequently, applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over D'Acierno ('401). Claim 9 ultimately depends from amended claim 1, which as discussed below, the examiner indicated was allowable subject matter. Consequently, applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

**Allowed and Allowable Subject Matter:**

Claims 7 and 16-20 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but, the examiner indicated, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form as amended claim 1—including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 27—including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 17 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 27.

Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 28—including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New claim 29 depends from allowable claim 28.

Amended claim 13 is, essentially, original claim 20 rewritten in independent form—including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 19 has been amended to depend from amended claim 13.

Thus, amended claims 1, 17 and 19, and new claims 27-29 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, applicants request that the examiner withdraw these objections.

Claims 21-25 stand as allowed.

**Conclusion:**

In summary, the Applicant believes that each formal and substantive requirement has now been met. The application is now believed to be in appropriate condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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